



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Arlington Town Hall

Brian Turbaugh, Mara Vatz, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow (visitors: Beth Melofchik and JoAnne Preston)

Minutes

1. *Approve April and May Meeting Minutes.* Minutes approved for April (no quorum for approval of May).
2. *Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2019 (Mary Ellen)*
 - a. Review of program - Tree ordering and delivery went super smoothly this year. All 30 trees planted. Checks delivered to DPW (Garden Club Trees Please Fund was the source this year)
 - b. Follow-up/Watering reminders – (MEA will send additional watering reminders)
3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
 - a. Community Canopy trees; JoAnn a 3 time buyer! (MEA /JoAnne will write article) This year's novelty was the addition of a business purchasing from the program. Mirak has planted three trees from our program at the DCF facility on Mystic St and two additional ones that they chose. They also have planted approximately 5 new trees at their Armenian facility on Mystic St near Winchester.
 - b. Watering reminders re: new trees (Phil's blurb good to go to Joan Roman).
 - c. Watering opportunities for girl scouts? List of trees that could use help (Did not address specifically). Scouts have helped with Spy Pond 40 trees. (MEA will put prior responses (Phil's to girl scouts, Mara's to Brackett school) on Drop Box to be used again for responses (both were well done and could be repurposed for Q/As in the future)
 - d. New Covenant School's EAB brochure (Keith and Mara) – (approval from New Covenant to use photo of kids. Keith could copy their EAB flyer for our use to distribute (Town Day?)
 - i. Idea from Susan: Maintain a list of activities *kids could be doing. *AHS, *Green Teams at the elementary schools, *scouts, etc. Some ideas:
 1. Gator bag filling
 2. Susan will help brainstorm ideas, Mara will then add them too.
 - e. FB and Google groups activity – post about watering, post about Tree City USA and award; post about EAB; post about 4 ways for street trees to die: volcano mulching, lack of water, lawn fertilizer near the tree, weed whackers (string trimmers)

- f. Write articles!! Multiple opportunities (tree canopy program – create a poster sized map for Town Day and for use in write up - Writing a story about a day following Tim (shadow him - Mara writing up and videoing Friday 6/14 at 9am). EAB, Uncle Sam tree,
- g. Town Day signup – Steve M will follow up.
- h. Ken Pruitt (he would be our grant writer)/BU tree research (Keith) – Luca from BU. Bring this back to Arlington. John talked to Molly (DCR community action forester) about a planting grant to use the heat island data work to get a grant given a data-driven case. Lucy Huytra (director, funding the project and Arlington resident) BU, Eliza, Brian, Mara volunteered to be a subcommittee to motivate to get a grant written. Would be great to have a **HEAT ISLAND MAP for a poster**

4. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update

- Updating Inventory with more accurate placement of trees out of place – Keith, MEA, Susan, and Beth volunteered to help with the 3,000.
- Tree hearing(s) – no tree hearings at this point. It was requested that Joan Roman pass along to us when there is a hearing and an announcement is posted in the Advocate. The ATC could post Facebook, Googlegroup, and we would ask Joan Roman to get it on the Town website (calendar or somewhere announcements go). (MEA to receive the info from Tim at ATC gmail)
- Tree Bylaw activity – since January 1, 2017 when the tree bylaw came into effect, Tim has documented the status of tree plans and plant/pay. ATC has handwritten list and several ATC members to photo. (should be in Excel!).
- Planting trees in vicinity of projects where developers opted to remove and pay; tracking of trees planted as a result of Bylaw fees. Tim will track the address and add it to the Spring and Fall plantings location decisions
- Spring planting – 154 trees (100 to Web/QA, 50 additional to tree zone 2), 4 to Hardy school.
- 17th annual Tree City USA (4 criteria to maintain Tree City USA status:
 - have a tree warden
 - have a tree committee
 - have a tree plan
 - spend at least \$2/capita (we spend \$9/capita). (MEA to write this up for posting)
- **Arlington also received a Growth award from Arbor Day** (need 10 points to get it. (A full-time tree warden plus tree inventory got us our points). A Growth Award banner will be hung on our Tree City USA sign in town (hard to achieve). Tim has a plaque in his office (Mara will take a photo when she is there on 6/14).
- Dead (small) trees removed –
- Watering in town: hired summer help in town (2 college interns Dominic/Alex using DPW's water truck). They also are tracking if DPW vs resident watering is watering a certain tree at a location (via print out, handwritten which is left in the watering truck). DPW is also doing some overtime watering 2 hours in the evenings – using the same list in the watering truck
- Tree choice for Uncle Sam Park – 5” caliper – red sunset maple 30 feet tall from Select Horticulture. (To be planted **Wednesday 6/19, late morning**) Matt Foti will plant it (**tree committee to take photos**). Tim will water. Adam and Mike around to put in it – (send a note to Adam Chapdelaine). Susan Stamps to contact Selectboard for their interest in attending the planting or organizing a simple tree dedication event to Kevin Greeley.

- 2 trees delivered to Robbins Library and going into the planters up front (Japanese *stewartia* between 9 – 11 am 6/13 or 6/14 (Eliza taking pictures).
- EAB strategy - - Mike and Tim meeting Rich Cardia (Rainbow Scientific out of MN) next Friday for a discussion of what insecticide products to use that they sell (which is a EAB preventative and will kill EAB) some claim that neonicotinoide will kill pollinators, but ash trees are not pollinated by bees. Yet, pollinators will still drink the ash pollen (yet injected in phloem, and bees drink from xylum (sap) -science is debating the level of risk to pollinators). Arlington has 960 ash trees (~800 trees are good/fairish) (\$1/inch cost for insecticide) vs (\$5/inch cost for organics + equipt/license). Tim has called BioForest (organic distributor) to set up an information meeting with Mike/him. Organic treatment will not kill EAB, yet can be a preventative to a tree not already invested. After receiving both sets of info/costs, a decision will need to be made which to use and which exact trees to target with the available funds.(**ATC look at map and make a list of the “high-value ash trees”**). Cambridge and Somerville are treating ½ their ash population with an organic year 1, second ½ year 2. (Susan is following closely). Winchester has decided not to treat. Several Committee members expressed opposition to using any product with neonicotinoid

5. *New Business*

- Zoning amendments; next steps – not discussed
- **Tim reports: 4 areas needing attention for new trees: Volcano mulching, fertilizers are burning the root hairs, lack of watering, weed- wacker is knocking the bark off: Too much mulch;Stop fertilizing;Watch your line trimmer;Don't Volcano mulch**

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 10.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40